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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

December 1, 1981

Mr. Ken Wangerud, Coordinator
Permits and Compliance
Arco Coal Company
P. O. Box 5300
Denver, Colorado 80217

RE: Huntington #4
Sedimentation Pond
Modification
ACT/015/004
Emery County, Utah

Dear Ken:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has reviewed Arco's request to modify the existing sedimentation ponds at the Huntington #4 mine to treat and discharge mine water which has accumulated in two underground sumps.

The nature of this project is to discharge mine water directly over established surface runoff drainages to the upper cell of the two sedimentation ponds. The mine water will be dewatered to the lower cell through a 12 inch cnp culvert equipped with a head gate in the lower cell to manually regulate flow. The lower cell treatment system consists of a filter dike of coke breeze covered with slag through which mine water will be filtered before discharging into Mill Fork Creek. The fact that the upper cell has a maximum capacity of 68 acre feet or that requested for the 10-year, 24-hour event plus sediment storage, justifies the Division granting approval of this project with stipulations.

According to Mr. Dan Guy, chief engineer for Beaver Creek Coal Company, the mine discharge system may be temporary and will be used minimally due to a number of factors:

1. This initial discharge should eliminate the mounting disposal problem of several hundred thousand gallons of mine water which has accumulated in underground sumps.

2. The assumed rate of mine water accumulation should come close to equaling that which is required for operational use underground.
3. If the rate of mine water accumulation exceeds underground use, then discharge from underground sumps would only occur on an infrequent basis and under controlled conditions.*
4. If the rate of mine water accumulation is highly excessive compared to the rate of operational use with discharge occurring on a regular basis, then a new system of discharging mine water to the lower pond cell would be designed and incorporated.

The Division approves the use of the lower cell of the sedimentation ponds as a mine water treatment facility utilizing the established surface drainages for routing mine water flow which will be passed through the upper cell to the lower cell by use of a 12 inch cmp dewatering culvert with a head gate, which will be manually controlled. The mine water will then be filtered through a coke breeze and slag dike before discharging into Mill Fork Creek. The following stipulations are concurrent with this approval and must be adhered to in using this system.

1. The operator will summarize the operational need and capability of this system within six months of this approval to justify its further use or nonuse.
2. The operator will use a 12 inch cmp culvert as a dewatering device for two purposes: (1) to pass mine water discharge from the upper cell to the lower cell; and (2) for dewatering of the 10-year, 24-hour volume after an appropriate detention period has been achieved.
3. Within one month of this approval, the operator shall submit to the Division the rate of dewatering from the upper cell to the lower cell which adequately maintains the filter dike process with a commitment to dewater at this constant rate.
4. All mine water discharge and treatment shall be carried out during operating hours at Huntington #4. The operator shall commit to closing off the gate valve at the end of each mine water discharge occurrence. There should be no mine water discharged during the spring snowmelt/runoff period.

*Controlled conditions implies operator knowledge of current weather conditions and the surface operator maintaining the opening of the head gate at a rate which will prevent a washout situation in the lower sedimentation cell, and the closing of the head gate between occurrences of mine water discharge.

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5. All stipulations of the State of Utah, Division of Water Pollution Control shall be fulfilled.
6. All design information resulting from Stipulations 1, 3 and 5 shall be forwarded to the Division within the specified time period.

If you have any further questions regarding this approval, please contact Sally Kefer of my staff.

Sincerely,


for JAMES W. SMITH, JR.
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

CC: Dan Guy, Beaver Creek Coal Co.
Richard Dawes, OSM

JWS/SK/btb